

wherein the cross-sectional shape of said inner cladding is an asymmetric and symmetry-broken polygon that destabilizes local modes of light beams within said inner cladding;

the improvement comprising:

at least one boundary of the boundaries forming said symmetry-broken polygon shape is an arc.

2. (Once Amended) An article for gain applications comprising at least one laser diode array for outputting a beam;

a double cladding laser fiber with its core doped with active species, said double cladding laser fiber having an aperture, an inner cladding, and an outer cladding;

a coupling optical system disposed between said laser diode array and the aperture of said double cladding laser fiber, the coupling optical system being disposed to focus the beam from said laser diode array for outputting a beam into the inner cladding of said double cladding laser fiber; and,

the cross-sectional shape of said inner cladding is an asymmetric and symmetry-broken polygon that destabilizes local modes of light beams within said inner cladding.

IN THE DRAWINGS:

The Examiner has requested that Figs. 1 to 8 be marked as prior art. In view of the Remarks that follow, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this requirement. Specifically, it is submitted that as to the Applicants' here, Wang et al. US Patent 6,101,199 is not prior art.